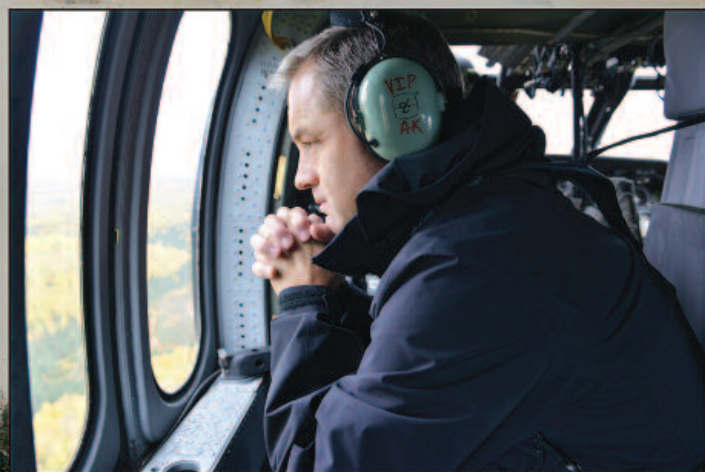


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**Major General Thomas H. Katkus**  
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& Commissioner of the DMVA

**Ms. Kalei Rupp**  
Managing Editor/DMVA Public Affairs

#### Contributors

**Major Guy Hayes**  
First Lieutenant Bernie Kale  
Staff Sergeant Karima Turner  
Specialist Balinda O'Neal  
DMVA Public Affairs

**Captain Amy B. Slinker**  
Sergeant Michelle Brown  
Sergeant Edward Eagerton  
134th Public Affairs Detachment

**Airman Francine St. Laurent**  
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson**  
Technical Sergeant Jennifer Theulen  
176th Wing Public Affairs

**Jeremy Zidek • Karl Edwards**  
DHS&EM

**Staff Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III**  
49th Missile Defense Battalion

**Master Sergeant James York**  
Alaska State Defense Force

**Verdie Bowen • Mercedes Angerman**  
Veterans Affairs

**Master Sergeant Sean Mitchell**  
Alaska Air National Guard

**Chief Warrant Officer Two Nick Forbes**  
Alaska Army National Guard

**Corporal Jason Nelson**  
U.S. Army

**Senior Airman Joshua Turner**  
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Lovelady  
Staff Sergeant Timothy Chacon  
U.S. Air Force

**Staff Sergeant Keith Brooks**  
Fort Greely Chaplains Office

**Lieutenant Benjamin Addison**  
U.S. Navy

**Alaska Military Youth Academy**  
ESGR & Family Programs Staff  
Office of Governor Sean Parnell  
University of Alaska Fairbanks



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**Bob Ulin**  
Publisher  
**Marie Lundstrom**  
Editor  
**Gloria Schein**  
Graphic Artist  
**Chris Kersbergen**  
**Darrell George**  
Advertising Sales

# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

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**Storms Ravage Alaska Communities.** From aboard an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell surveys damage fall storms brought to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in September. Extreme winds and excessive rainfall made for stormy conditions, causing severe flooding in many parts of Southcentral Alaska.

Photos: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sean Parnell



**Cannon Fire for Appreciation.** Staff Sergeant John Ruthe, Alaska Army National Guard, fires a cannon outside the Alaska National Guard headquarters at Camp Denali on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on July 30 in celebration of Alaska National Guard Appreciation Day. Alaska Governor Sean Parnell signed legislation earlier this year designating the observance citing, "It is fitting that we pause each year to recognize these courageous men and women who are always ready to serve, protect and defend the people of our great state." Photo: Specialist Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

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#### HOW TO REACH US

**Letters:** Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. **Submissions:** Print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Alaska National Guard military members,

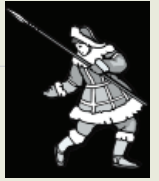
veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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# For the People

Governor Sean Parnell  
Commander in Chief



## When Disaster Strikes, Be Responder-Ready

Every year, some Alaskans encounter a variety of different emergency situations – from excessive snowfall and avalanches, to wildfires, earthquakes and flooding. Turbulent weather this fall has already reminded us of coming winter challenges. Alaskans are resourceful, independent, and proactive, and we know that effective preparation better assures survival and recovery in the face of unexpected disasters, which could disrupt communications and the delivery of food, fuel and supplies. But we also know that there are times when we must rely on the preparation of others – our emergency and military first responders.

In Alaska, we depend on the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs to stand at the forefront of emergency

response and disaster management. As an integral part of the state's first response contingent, Alaska National Guardsmen and their families need to be responder-ready when disasters hit. Individual and family disaster preparation should include a well-prepared emergency kit with a seven-day supply of nonperishable food and water, a battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, sanitation items, matches in a waterproof container, a whistle, cold-weather appropriate clothing and blankets, copies of personal documentation, cash, tools and special needs supplies such as medication.

Families should also create an emergency plan with meeting locations, escape routes, contact information, utility shut-off information and instructions to assist

young children or the elderly. Knowing that your family is prepared will enable you to better help your neighbors, community and state as a first responder.

Just as the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs relies on strong coordination with other state departments, federal agencies, and communities, so we rely on one another to be ready for disaster. I urge all Alaskans – military and civilian alike – to proactively prepare for disaster and emergency by visiting [www.ready.alaska.gov](http://www.ready.alaska.gov), where you can learn how to get a kit, make a plan and be informed. Thank you for being prepared.

*Sean Parnell*



**Rail Damage.** Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Director John Madden, left, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell, center, and Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, walk along the Alaska Railroad tracks in Talkeetna to check out flooding damages caused by severe wind and rain storms in September. Photo: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sean Parnell



# The Adjutant General



**Major General Thomas H. Katkus**

Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard  
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

## Communities Prepared for Emergency Response

Alaska is a tremendous state filled with rugged mountains, glaciers, rivers, wildlife and people. Covering nearly 600,000 square miles, Alaska is larger than most countries and is as diverse as any place you'll visit.

Unfortunately, Alaska, with such an exceptional landscape, comes with significantly challenging environmental conditions. Whether living on our vast arctic coast, in the shadows of our many volcanoes, along our numerous rivers and streams, or in cities like Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, being prepared for natural disasters is an absolute necessity to our well-being.

Throughout much of our great state this fall, high winds from 50 to 130 miles per hour pounded many communities. Exceedingly heavy rains created severe flooding conditions and damaged hundreds of homes. Many Alaskans spent several days without power. Others are still assessing the full extent of the damage to their properties.

It is exceedingly important to recognize the determination, resiliency and resolve of these steadfast communities as they responded to these unrelenting conditions.

Our recent disasters would be headline news in many cities across the United States. They would have required a multitude of public agencies and significant resources to mitigate the effects of such large scale events.

Emergency managers across several boroughs, multiple municipalities and four regional attendance areas handled their local response without fail as a direct result of their planning efforts and rehearsal exercises as part of their preparation. These communities knew the appropriate actions to take as rivers crested and winds damaged power lines and homes.

These true Alaskan professionals committed themselves to disaster preparedness. They regularly attend organized Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management training conferences. They conduct exercises in their boroughs and communities. They build lasting partnerships and gain synergy through cooperation and unity of effort. The communities work in conjunction with multiple organizations to quickly address the needs of their neighbors and ensure public safety.

Their dedication to emergency preparedness was essential to saving lives, and this dedication was clearly evident during these fall storms. These community leaders ensured that their citizens had the assistance and information they needed before, during and following the disaster.

As Alaska National Guard members, it's paramount that we continue to train and prepare to respond when called on by our governor to support civilian authorities and assist Alaskans in their time of need. We should take great pride that we live in a state where so many communities, volunteer organizations, and emergency managers have done such exceptional disaster response preparation. The bar is set high, and we must never relax our continual efforts to meet the challenges of our no-fail mission to be "Always ready, Always there." ■



**Damage Assessments.** Flood waters rise on homes and businesses in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in September after several storms pushed through the area with heavy rain and high winds. Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell and several key leaders visited residents to get a first-hand account on storm damages. Photo: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sean Parnell

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# Dispatches from the Front...

## Air Guardsmen Rescue Hiker

By Specialist Balinda O'Neal,  
DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** The Alaska Air National Guard rescued a distressed 25-year-old hiker approximately 43 miles southeast of Anchorage near Whittier Glacier in August after Alaska State Troopers requested a hoist-equipped helicopter.

According to Alaska State Troopers, the hiker was trapped on a ledge at the 500-foot level in a box canyon. After all other means to rescue him had been exhausted, troopers called the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center requesting assistance with the mission.

The RCC alerted the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, and following a situation brief, they launched an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The HH-60 helicopter arrived about 20 minutes later, and Guardian Angels from the Alaska Air National Guard promptly began operations by lowering a pararescueman 200 feet via hoist onto the scene.

"Performing a 200-foot hoist is one of the most complex tasks that an Air Guard helicopter performs during a rescue," said Master Sergeant Robert Carte, 11th Air Force RCC superintendent. "It's a tricky type of situation even in the best weather conditions."

According to Whittier police, two Whittier police officers and a fireman used lights to guide the helicopter crew to the bottom of the ledge.



**Rescue Training.** An Alaska Air National Guard 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter hoists two Guardian Angels from the 212th Rescue Squadron during a training mission over Alaska.

Photo: Master Sergeant Sean Mitchell, Alaska Air National Guard

The hiker was hoisted onto the HH-60 helicopter and transported to the Whittier Police Department. He did not require medical treatment.

"The rescue was a total team effort with help from Alaska State Troopers, Whittier

Police Department and the Alaska Air National Guard," Carte said.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons were awarded one save for this mission. ■



**From Afghanistan to Juneau.** Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers of Detachment 54 present Alaska Governor Sean Parnell and first lady Sandy Parnell with a U.S. flag and an Alaska state flag that had flown on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance flights in Afghanistan. The Guardsmen returned this summer from a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan. In July, the Parnells hosted the returning Guardsmen at the Governor's House in Juneau.

Photo: Chief Warrant Officer Two Nick Forbes, Alaska Army National Guard

# Where in the World

## Airmen Provide Health Care

By Airman Francine St. Laurent,  
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** ... Three members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Medical Group attended an Innovative Readiness Training this August in Selma, Ala.

The IRT is part of a \$20 million-per-year Pentagon program to train military medical professionals while providing care to underprivileged and underserved communities, said Captain Jonilyn Reyes, 168th Medical Group medical administration officer and officer in charge of the IRT.

"Members come back with skills that they can use focused on homeland defense," Reyes said.

The joint and total force initiative training was attended by Navy, Air Force, and Army components with members of the active duty, Guard and Reserve.

In merely seven days, 118 volunteer military members saw and treated more than 2,000 patients.

Patients were provided with medical services, dental services including crowning and teeth extraction, optometry services of eye exams and building glasses, mental health services and chaplain services.

The program coordinated moving supplies to the Selma Police Department warehouse and a community building where patients were seen.

"It was very realistic in that it wasn't an ideal setup," said Senior Airman Shamika Emerson, 168th Medical Group health systems manager. "You didn't come with everything you would like to have. You had whatever supplies and tools came in the box, and you had to make it work."

During the training mission, Emerson worked with optometry, testing pupillary distance, aiding patients in frame selection and doing administrative work.

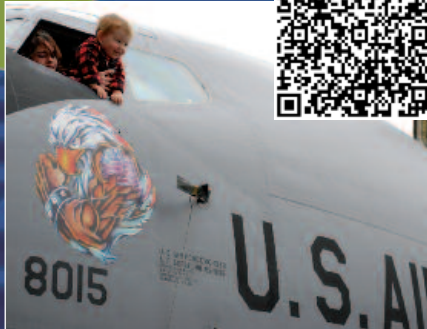
"Dental and optometry care are in



### Window Seat View.

Kids peer out of the cockpit window of a KC-135 on display during the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing's Family Day in June at Eielson Air Force Base. "We're one big family anyway, so it's just nice to have your spouse and your kids all here getting to know everybody," said Master Sergeant Lana Hebert, 168th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Photo: Airman Francine St. Laurent,  
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



**Dental Exam.** Staff Sergeant Vanessa Campbell, 168th Medical Group dental technician, aids a dentist during an Innovative Readiness Training event in August in Selma, Ala. According to Campbell, between 800 and 1,000 teeth were extracted from patients during seven days.

Photo: Courtesy of the 168th Air Refueling Wing

high demand in low-income communities," Reyes said. "While the emergency room does not turn away patients without insurance, it does not render dental and optometry service."

Navy Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity, a team that builds eyewear as well as gas masks, crafted more than 600 pairs of glasses on site and gave them to patients.

According to Reyes, more than 500 prescriptions were dispensed.



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### Proud of Daddy.

Captain Matt Kirby holds his family close after returning with 18 other Alaska Air National Guardsmen in July from a deployment to Afghanistan. Kirby, a combat rescue officer with the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron, was deployed for more than three months performing combat search and rescue missions. The Alaska Guardsmen flew into "hot" combat zones, frequently under fire, to pull wounded coalition service members to safety and transport them to a treatment facility within one hour.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



**Welcome Home Hugs.** Master Sergeant Eric Taylor embraces his family after returning to Alaska in July from a deployment to Afghanistan. Taylor is a pararescueman with the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron and had been performing combat search and rescue missions in support of coalition forces since May. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

On the dental side, between 800 and 1,000 teeth were pulled, said Staff Sergeant Vanessa Campbell, 168th Medical Group dental technician.

Not only did this unique training prepare our Airmen to provide homeland defense during natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, but it also helped ready Airmen for future training missions.

Campbell said an IRT is unlike any clinic. It helped military members understand the flow of setup and getting things rolling to quickly start seeing patients.

"This is what we're trained to do," said Emerson of the IRT. "It's real world." ■

**American Citizens.** Alaska Army National Guard Private First Class Berald Escribano, third from left, swears in during a naturalization ceremony at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in June. Escribano and more than 40 service members recited the Oath of Allegiance to become U.S. citizens while deployed to Afghanistan. Photo: Senior Airman Joshua Turner, U.S. Air Force



**Ready to Fire.** Staff Sergeant Denis Dillon, truck commander, provides mentorship on mounted gunnery techniques to Private First Class Harvey Brice, MK-19 gunner, during annual training for the 297th Military Police Company, Alaska Army National Guard. Soldiers from the company conducted a rolling convoy over more than 400 miles to Fort Greely, Alaska, for a two-week event that culminated in a live-fire exercise in August.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



**Combat Search and Rescue.** Coalition service members prepare to board an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during an urgent medevac mission in July in the Northern Helmand River Valley of southwestern Afghanistan. More than 180 citizen-Airmen of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing deployed to Afghanistan in May in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the primary wartime mission of combat search and rescue. Photo: Courtesy Alaska Air National Guard

## Deployed Soldier Becomes U.S. Citizen

By Corporal Jason Nelson, U.S. Army

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan ...** There were 44 Soldiers seated in the front rows, representing 24 different countries of origin. After rigorous interviews, background checks and testing, they completed the process of naturalization and stood together to take the oath of citizenship.

"What is so honorable to me is that before being granted the benefits, you

accepted the cost," said Ambassador Stephen G. McFarland, the U.S. Embassy's coordinating director for rule of law and law enforcement.

These words delivered by the ambassador washed over the audience gathered to witness the naturalization of U.S. service members currently serving in Afghanistan.

One of these U.S. Soldiers was Private First Class Berald Escribano, a 22-year-old Alaska Army National Guardsman from Kodiak, who is currently attached to Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul. Born in Cavite, Philippines, Escribano immigrated to the United States in 1999 with his family and completed his schooling in Alaska.

"I've already done so much in my life, like joining the National Guard, but I know that this will make a big difference," Escribano said. "I will have more opportunities for work and education and, most importantly, I will finally get to have a voice during the election."

The desire to vote is what pushed Escribano to pursue his citizenship more vigorously.

The process of becoming a U.S. citizen is not an easy one. There are many applicants throughout the military with only two ceremonies for service members held yearly in southern Afghanistan. For Escribano, he had a mentor and guide, First Sergeant Stephen Blair, his company's first sergeant.

"We started the process during mobilization, and it was a lot of paperwork and follow up," Blair said. "But it was well worth it to be able to get this done for him."

Both Soldiers are members of B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard. Escribano has been a part of the unit for more than a year and knows that his decision to serve was as important as his decision to naturalize.

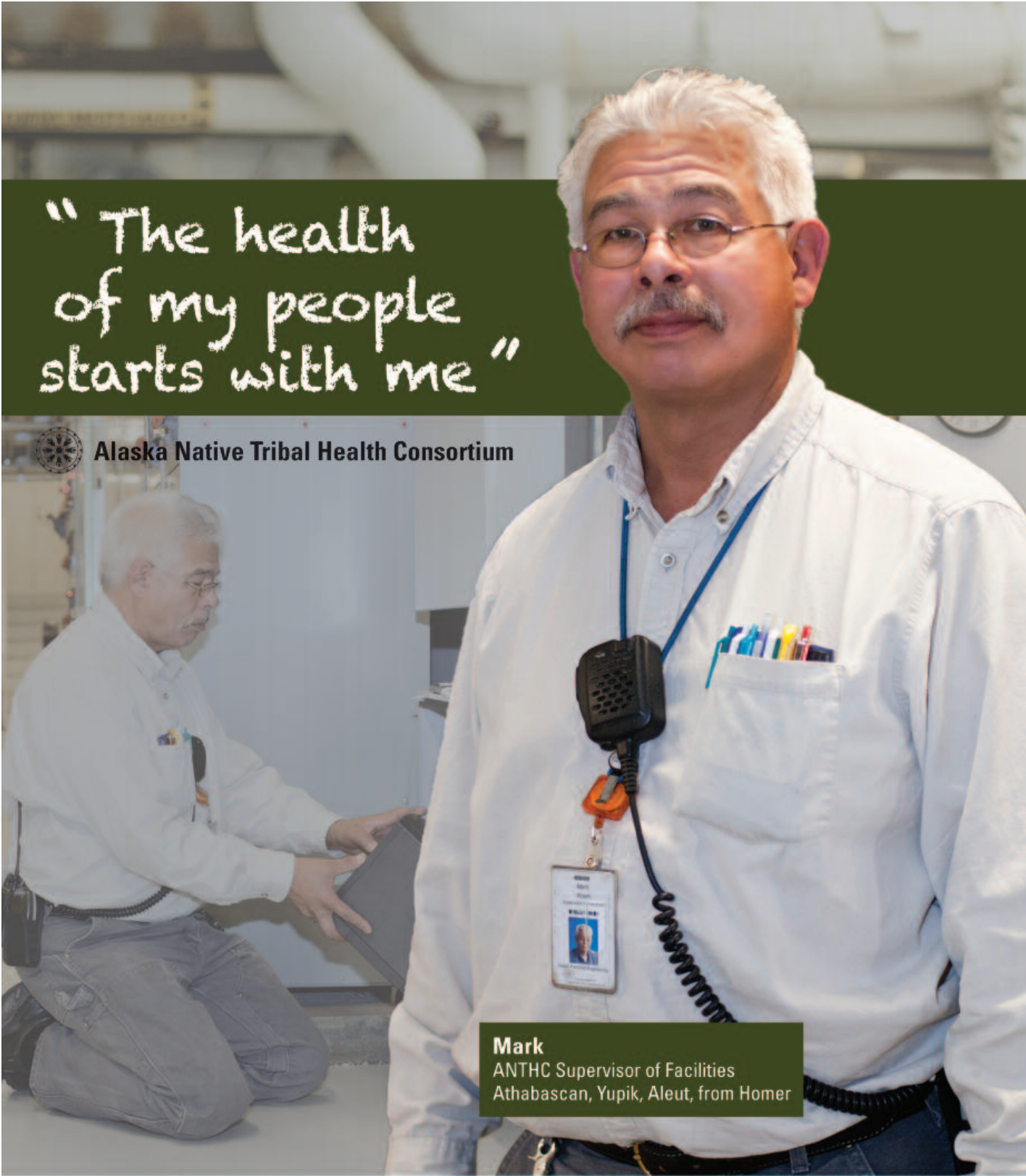
"My family already looks up to me because of my education and then my status as a U.S. Soldier," Escribano said. "But now, I feel like I will be a model to both my siblings and my parents for them to move forward and become citizens of the only country we think of as home."

When he was asked what his favorite part of the process was, it wasn't the oath or ceremony.

"I loved preparing for the test," said Escribano. "Studying with the guys, learning more about our government and our country, and knowing I had the whole team pulling for me ... this feels more like a group celebration than it does an individual accomplishment."

The opportunity and the ceremony were an achievement for the service members who worked so hard to achieve their goal of citizenship, which also means a vote in the Nov. 6 election.

As the ambassador said, "It's a benefit they had already paid the price for." ■



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# Alaska State Defense Force

## ASDF Searches for Missing Mountain Racer

By Kalei Rupp and Major Guy Hayes  
DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** ... Members of the Alaska State Defense Force joined efforts in July to assist volunteers and Seward firefighters with the search for a missing Mount Marathon runner who disappeared during the 85th running of the annual race July 4.

Michael LeMaitre, a 66-year-old Anchorage resident, was last seen near the peak of the 3,022-foot mountain where runners turn to head back down the mountain to Seward.

Ground teams and aerial search crews, including the Alaska Air National Guard, thoroughly searched the mountain before Alaska State Troopers called off the main search efforts three days later. However, local citizens and Seward Fire Department personnel carried on the efforts in hope they could still find LeMaitre, the first person to disappear during a running of Mount Marathon.

The ASDF had 12 members join the search under the guidance of the Seward Fire Department. The ASDF has a long history of working with the City of Seward in supporting port security efforts and special events.

"We were proud to answer the needs of our friends in Seward," said Brigadier General (Alaska) Roger Holl, commander of the ASDF. "We helped rescue an injured racer from Mount Marathon a couple of years ago, and we know we can provide additional resources to the local first responders to make them more effective."

"This was the perfect role for the Alaska State Defense Force," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "ASDF volunteers are very effective in filling support roles to assist communities and emergency response personnel. They are valuable Alaska citizens who uphold the values of the state of Alaska and the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Their ability to respond quickly and assist the search efforts for Michael LeMaitre is a true credit to their ability to support response efforts here in Alaska."

The ASDF searched for five days for LeMaitre.

"ASDF search and rescue teams searched on the mountain and also observed the mountain from pre-arranged observation positions," Holl said. "In an effort to find where the runner may have fallen, ASDF personnel lowered themselves with ropes over cliffs into dense brush and lowered themselves into ice caves in the shale chutes coming off the mountain. The ASDF also accompanied the search dog and its handler on the search, but unfortunately, the runner was not found."

The Seward Fire Department concluded the search nine days after the race when the runner had not been found and mountain climbing conditions deteriorated.

"Chief Dave Squires, of the Seward Fire Department, stated that Mount Marathon never before had been so thoroughly searched," Holl said.

The ASDF is a volunteer state military organization inside the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs whose primary role is to augment and support the Alaska



**Appreciation.** Alaska Governor Sean Parnell shakes hands with Lieutenant Colonel John James, Alaska State Defense Force. The governor and first lady Sandy Parnell greeted members of the Alaska State Defense Force at the Governor's Picnic in August in Anchorage to thank them for their efforts in the search for a missing Mount Marathon runner in July in Seward.

Photo: Master Sergeant James York, Alaska State Defense Force

National Guard in times of emergency. ASDF Soldiers meet monthly for training and are equipped for various missions including communications, emergency management, medical, logistical support, chaplaincy and shelter management. ■



**Search Plans.** Members of the Alaska State Defense Force discuss searching an ice covered chute on Mount Marathon during the search for a missing racer after he disappeared during the popular July 4 event in Seward. From left, Major Richard Wride, Master Sergeant Jerry Stackhouse, Sergeant Steven Flippen, First Lieutenant Randell Cosper and First Lieutenant Timothy Stephan. Photo: Master Sergeant James York, Alaska State Defense Force

# Ensuring Mission

# CAUTION

## Alaska Army National Guardsmen Provide Security in Afghanistan



**High Fives.** Private Richard Mitchell, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul, visits with children of a village in northern Qalat, Afghanistan, in May. The children of the village received humanitarian aid from the Provincial Reconstruction Team during the U.S. visit to assess security and irrigation in the village. Mitchell is from Anchorage and is expected to return home from deployment in November.

Photo: Senior Airman Joshua Turner, U.S. Air Force



**All Secure.** Sergeant Edsel Huynh, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, and his squad from Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul help secure a hospital compound during a site inspection in Shah Joy District, Afghanistan. The detachment conducts regular inspections on projects in order to ensure quality construction.

Photo: Corporal Jason Nelson, U.S. Army



**Children of Afghanistan.** Specialist Terry Proud, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, a security force member of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, spends time with local children while pulling security during a mission in Farah City, Farah province, Afghanistan, in May. Provincial Reconstruction Team members met with locals to gather information and opinions about the living conditions in Farah City. Photo: Staff Sgt. Jonathan Lovelady, U.S. Air Force



**Scanning for Threats.** Specialist Bo Boy Scout, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul, scans an area for potential threats in northern Qalat, Afghanistan, in May. The Americans and Romanians joined forces to assess security and irrigation in the village. Boy Scout is from Chevak, Alaska, and has been deployed since 2011. Photo: Senior Airman Joshua Turner, U.S. Air Force



**Site Survey Security.** Private First Class John Smith, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, provides security in June for a site survey at Kandahar University in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Smith is from Anchorage and is a member of Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team. Photo: Staff Sergeant Timothy Chacon, U.S. Air Force



**Ready to Go.** Members of Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team leave Camp Nathan Smith in August on a dismounted patrol to conduct an equipment survey of a Department of Public Works facility in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team is a joint team of U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy service members and civilians deployed to the Kandahar province of Afghanistan to assist in the effort to rebuild and stabilize the local government and infrastructure. Photo: Staff Sergeant Timothy Chacon, U.S. Air Force



**On Patrol.** Sergeant Thomas Belli, Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team, leaves Camp Nathan Smith in August on a dismounted patrol to conduct an equipment survey of a Department of Public Works facility in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Belli is from Anchorage and has been deployed with B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, since 2011. Photo: Staff Sergeant Timothy Chacon, U.S. Air Force



**Street Security.** Sergeant Benjamin Angaiak, a security force member from B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, provides security during a key leader engagement in Farah City, Farah province, Afghanistan, in September. The Provincial Reconstruction Team met with local officials to discuss security improvements. Photo: Lieutenant Benjamin Addison, U.S. Navy

# SEVERE STORMS BATTER COMMUNITIES

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** ... A strong weather system Sept. 4 produced high winds and heavy rains, resulting in severe and widespread wind damage and flooding throughout much of Southcentral and Interior Alaska.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management activated the State Emergency Operations Center Sept. 20 and continued communication with emergency response partners and local jurisdictions in the path of the severe weather.

High winds battered Anchorage, Tanacross and other areas of the state. The high winds in some communities reached speeds in excess of 100 mph, knocked down trees, damaged roofs and disrupted power distribution systems. Heavy rains caused flooding and landslides in several areas, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Denali Borough and Chenega. The final flood warning expired Sept. 30.

"An atmospheric river opened up and began to dump a torrent of severe weather on a wide swath of the state," said Bryan Fisher,

state incident commander. "Thanks to quality weather forecasting from the National Weather Service, professional emergency response within local jurisdictions, dedicated volunteer services and state support, the needs of Alaskans in the affected area were met."

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough opened emergency operations centers to manage the local emergency response.

DHS&EM received requests for a state disaster declaration from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City of Houston and the City of Seward. After touring disaster-impacted areas and speaking to residents and officials, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell issued a disaster declaration on Sept. 21 for communities in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Alaska Gateway Regional Attendance Area and the Chugach Regional Attendance Area.

The governor's disaster declaration activated the state's individual and public assistance programs.

The Public Assistance Program is designed to help state, local, tribal governmental entities and certain private nonprofit organizations to restore infrastructure damaged by a specific event to pre-disaster conditions.

The Individual Assistance Program is designed to provide assistance to individuals or families to meet eligible disaster-related expenses and serious unmet needs.

In order to help disaster-impacted Alaskans apply for individual assistance, the state established Disaster Assistance Centers in the hardest hit areas and a hotline for those who could not make it to a center. Through partnerships with local governments, DHS&EM identified eight locations to establish centers, and communications there were established through the use of DHS&EM's Mobile Emergency Operation Center and Rapid Communications Trailer. The uses of DHS&EM communications equipment enabled the Disaster Assistance Centers to set up quickly and begin to take applications in short order.

As of early October, rough damage assessments indicate that more than 1,000 homes were impacted, and nearly \$12 million in emergency response and recovery costs for public infrastructure have been identified.

The state has requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency conduct a State/FEMA preliminary damage assessment. The information gathered by the preliminary damage assessment will be used to determine if the state seeks federal disaster assistance. ■



**Emergency Operations On The Go.** The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management's Mobile Emergency Operation Center sits outside the Talkeetna Disaster Assistance Center, where help was available for residents seeking information on the state's disaster recovery programs. Photo: Karl Edwards, DHS&EM

**Flooding.** Heavy rains and high winds created disaster conditions in many communities across the state. The storms caused several area rivers to surge, and the Matanuska-Susitna River engulfed this home as a result. Photo: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sean Parnell





**Responder Ready.** Members of the 297th Military Police Company, Alaska Army National Guard, arrive in Cordova in January. The Alaska National Guard was activated to assist the snow-buried city after nearly 18 feet of snow dropped in the region. As the state's first military responders, the National Guard is relied upon during weather disasters, such as the excessive snowfall in Cordova. Photo: Specialist Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** ... Disaster response is dependent on highly capable first responders prepared to assist fellow citizens in their greatest time of need.

As the National Guard, the capability to respond during emergencies is partially based on individual preparedness at home. As the first military responder in all domestic emergencies, personal readiness can equal lives saved.

As a first responder, you should ask yourself the following questions to see if you're "responder ready."

- Have you built a disaster supplies kit for your home to help you and your family survive on your own after an emergency?
- Do you have a family emergency and family care plan?
- Is your family prepared for you to be gone, so you can focus on life-saving missions that support the community?

Preparing your family will allow you to do your job more effectively and safely when you're called up to serve your community as a member of the National Guard. It will also help alleviate stress on your loved ones if you've discussed what your plan is before disaster strikes.

"We are the governor's first responders in homeland emergency, so we need to have our families ready for when the big event happens," said Brigadier General Mike Bridges, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard. "We need to make sure that we are ready to go first and that our families can sustain themselves in our immediate absence while we go and help others recover from an emergency event."

With floods, road closures and rescues occurring throughout Southcentral Alaska this time of year, Alaska National Guardsmen may be called upon to support civilian authorities, and everyone needs to be prepared to immediately respond.

"As disaster responders, whether it be a civilian or a National Guard Airman or Soldier, having a disaster supply kit, family disaster plan, and communications plan is critical," said Bryan Fisher, incident commander of the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. "When they know their family is taken care of, it makes them more effective and rapidly able to respond when we need them."

For more information on becoming "responder ready" and building your own family emergency kit, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's website. ■

[www.ready.gov/responder](http://www.ready.gov/responder)

# Homeland Security & Emergency Management

## Preparing for Catastrophic Disaster

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

Catastrophic disasters are rare. Many people live their entire lives and never experience an event that causes widespread destruction and overwhelms local and state emergency resources.

In Alaska, catastrophic disasters can take many forms. One of the biggest risks we face is a seismic event like the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake.

You only have to look at Alaska's majestic mountains to get an idea of the massive seismic forces at work in our state. Alaska is one of the most seismically active regions in the world and boasts the second largest earthquake ever recorded and the largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century.

For many years, Alaska's response to disasters has been handled by resilient local governments, professional and volunteer first responders, the state's Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and other partners who have a year round presence in the state. Federal assistance from outside the state has augmented numerous recovery efforts, but has not played a major role in a disaster response effort in a number of years.

"As a state, we have competent and professional emergency management at all levels of government. We plan and prepare together, conduct joint exercises and know who to call when something bad happens," said John Madden, director of DHS&EM. "However, catastrophic disasters have an impact that is

exponentially greater than the localized disasters we regularly address. A catastrophic disaster will require all local and state capabilities augmented by a massive federal response effort."

To become better prepared for catastrophic disaster, DHS&EM hosted an integrated emergency management course instructed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in August. The IEMC had two days of classroom instruction followed by a one-day exercise, which engaged federal emergency support representatives and Alaska's emergency management cadre.

Attending the IEMC were personnel from DHS&EM, volunteer agencies, local jurisdictions, emergency response liaisons from various state agencies, Alaska National Guard, and a myriad of federal government agencies led by the FEMA Region 10 Incident Management Assistance Team.

The team's mission is to support local and state government response during a catastrophic disaster or other event that overwhelms local and state emergency response capabilities. The IEMC provided the rare opportunity for the Incident Management Assistance Team to interact with local, state and federal response partners assembled in one room.

"When we reach the tipping point, we will need to integrate the immediate response with our federal partners with great efficiency," said Bryan Fisher, emergency program manager. "The state's emergency operations plan has been optimized for the challenges we face here in Alaska. The IEMC exercise gave us the opportunity to identify ways our plans can merge with the federal government's response to create a unified response."

On the final day of the course, the IEMC classroom was transformed into an emergency operations center similar to the temporary facilities that are needed to accommodate the massive number of catastrophic event managers and responders. The exercise, set three days after a massive earthquake scenario, called upon the participants to use current plans and strategies to resolve response issues associated with a catastrophic event.

During the exercise, DHS&EM and FEMA established a unified coordination group, an organizational structure in which the role of overall incident management is shared. A joint logistics, operation, and planning section was quickly formed and began performing their respective tasks.

"Immediately, we recognized that our relationships with our partners were working," Fisher said. "It is very difficult to quickly establish a constructive relationship in a high stress environment like a disaster. You want to know the capabilities and character of your partners before you go into battle."

One of the valuable lessons the exercise yielded was the identification of differences in the way the state and federal governments manage responders. The state's emergency operations plan organizes each response branch by geographic area. This is done to accommodate communities that are separated by large distances.

FEMA organizes its branches into 15 emergency support functions, which provide specific emergency response functions



**Disaster Reminder.** The devastating results from the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami are shown in Valdez. Another catastrophic disaster is not a matter of if, but when. Alaska's population and infrastructure growth since the 1964 quake makes it likely that the damages from a similar event would be much greater.

Photo: Courtesy of University of Alaska Fairbanks

such as search and rescue or mass care. Throughout the exercise, the joint team identified processes through which DHS&EM could quickly integrate FEMA's emergency support functions into the state's geographically organized branches.

"How the state and FEMA link together, how we initiate a joint response, will foretell how well we respond in the weeks and months that follow a catastrophic response effort," Fisher said. "The IEMC has given everyone a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities and how emergency response activities fit within the national incident management system and the national response framework."

In addition to the planning, operation and logistical intricacies that were explored, the exercise gave participants a chance to get to know one another. Exercises often improve coordination and communication by getting people out of their routines and asking them to find a solution to a problem. In the search for a solution, people communicate with one another, talk about their organizations' capabilities and limitations and learn to make decisions together.

"Disasters, especially catastrophic disasters, create chaos. Emergency managers must work through the chaos, establish order and work to resolve



**Emergency Response.** A temporary emergency operation center is established to simulate the crowded temporary facilities common to a large emergency response operation. DHS&EM hosted an integrated emergency management course instructed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in August for partner agencies to come together to plan and prepare for a catastrophic disaster. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

problems the event creates," Madden said. "We have seen time and time again, a swift response facilitates a swift recovery. When recovery is slow, people leave and rebuild

elsewhere. As emergency managers, it is our duty to prepare to respond swiftly so an equally rapid recovery process can begin." ■



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# KHAAN QUEST 12

## HAILED AS A SUCCESS

By Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

**FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia ...** After intense training during Khaan Quest 12, a regularly scheduled multinational exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted annually by the

Mongolian Armed Forces, the participants of the August exercise hailed the two-week event as a success.

Khaan Quest 12 was the latest in a continuing series of exercises designed to

promote regional peace and security. This exercise marked the 10th iteration of this regionally significant training event.

About 80 Alaska National Guardsmen participated in Khaan Quest 12, joining more than 1,000 Soldiers from 10 countries including 276 U.S. personnel and international participants from South Korea, India, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, France, United Kingdom and Germany. Kazakhstan, Russia and China also sent observers to the exercise.

"Khaan Quest serves as a practical example of the closeness of the Mongolian – United States relations," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, who was in attendance at the exercise closing ceremony. "It serves as a symbolic commitment to peace and security throughout the world that is demonstrated by all the participants of Khaan Quest."

Throughout two weeks, a multinational conglomerate of organizations underwent training designed to enhance the skill sets of the participants in peacekeeping operations. The training included a field training exercise, a staff exercise, medical first



**Field Training Exercise.** Alaska Army National Guardsmen assigned to the 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, along with ROTC cadets, participate in a mounted counter-improvised explosive device scenario as part of the field training exercise for Khaan Quest 12, held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Photo: Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

◀ **Staff Exercise.** Captain John S. Bittle, 1-297th Cavalry (Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron), Alaska Army National Guard, plots positions of friendly forces on a map during the staff exercise portion of Khaan Quest 12 in August.

Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



**Weapons Training.** Sergeant Ken Thongdy, 1-297th Cavalry, Alaska Army National Guard, conducts weapons training with a Mongolian Armed Forces soldier during Khaan Quest 12 in August. Thongdy, from Anchorage, is a team leader for the multinational field training exercise focused on peacekeeping operations, academic events, and counter-improvised explosive device tactics and techniques.

Photo: Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

responder training and a medical humanitarian civic action outreach project.

“With the close of Khaan Quest 12, we can unequivocally state that through teamwork we have achieved our goals,” said Command Sergeant Major Clinton K. Brown II, command sergeant major, 297th



**Medical First Responder.** Sergeant Damion Minchaca, 207th Multifunctional Training Regiment combat medic, Alaska Army National Guard, demonstrates the proper way to conduct a litter carry during the medical first responder course for Khaan Quest 12 held in August. Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled multinational exercise sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific and hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard. “Using our closely forged relationship with the Mongolian Armed Forces, we concluded this exercise knowing that we all have learned valuable lessons and made lifelong partnerships.”

“It is delightful that Khaan Quest has

become a symbol of mutual respect among nations in our vast region and a vivid example of how countries can collaborate despite differences in forms of government, social and economic systems,” Mongolian President Ts. Elbegdorj said.

During the closing ceremony, participants from each nation stood in formations on the parade field as the Mongolian Honor Guard band played the Mongolian national anthem, the crowd saluting in mutual respect for their host nation’s generosity and partnership during Khaan Quest 12. At the end of the ceremony, the formations marched past the distinguished guests and hosts, one last procession ending the 10th iteration of the Khaan Quest exercises.

“Throughout the exercise, the participants did a lot of great work,” Mabus said. “The skills learned here can and will translate into real world military and peacekeeping operations. Together, you have built expertise, interoperability and most importantly, you have built trust. In the future, whatever mission is needed, we already know each other.

“I want to thank Mongolia for the strong partnership that the United States has with Mongolia,” he said. “Thank you to the Mongolian government and the Mongolian Armed Forces for hosting Khaan Quest, along with the Alaska National Guard, here at Five Hills.” ■



**Alaska Contingent.** Alaska National Guardsmen march in a pass and review during the Khaan Quest 12 opening ceremony held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Center near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Khaan Quest 12 is a multinational training exercise focused on peacekeeping operations, co-sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific Command and the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

# Multinational Medical Team Helps Thousands in Mongolia

By Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

**ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia** ... Service members and medical professionals from the United States, Mongolia, Canada and the Republic of Korea were recognized during a closing ceremony in honor of their efforts for the Medical Humanitarian Civic Action Outreach Project of Khaan Quest 12 in August.

"The [Humanitarian Civic Action] event is one of the significant activities to extend foreign cooperation with other nations and strengthen civilian-to-military relations," said Major General B. Bayarmagnai, deputy chief of the general staff, Mongolian Armed



**Medical Clinic Visit.** Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh talks with Private First Class Chantal Miller, a medic in the Alaska Army National Guard Medical Detachment, at the medical clinic during his visit to the various Khaan Quest 12 exercise locations in and around Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Forces. "This is one of the bases to successfully fulfill the aim to provide security to our country."

Throughout the eight-day period, the multinational medical team offered medical, dental and vision care to more than 4,300 community members. Classrooms at a local school were temporarily set up as medical offices ranging from pediatric and

gynecological care to optometric and neurological services.

"The work was done free of charge with accurate medication, modern tools and equipment, which fit the health standards of Mongolia," said Bayarmagnai as he expressed his appreciation to those who made the HCA a success.

The purpose of the HCA was to increase interoperability between the participating countries through an exchange of tactics, techniques and procedures while establishing a primary and urgent care outpatient clinic at the 39th School Complex, in the city of Ulaanbaatar, Chingeltei District, 9th and 10th Khoroo, to serve the local community.

"The Medical Humanitarian Civic Action Outreach Project portion of Khaan Quest 12 was an extraordinary and significant effort between multiple countries dedicated to providing basic services to people in need," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled multinational exercise sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific and hosted annually by the Mongolia Armed Forces. The exercise is held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center in the vicinity of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

"I truly appreciate the long and enduring relationship we've built with Mongolia throughout the last 10 years and appreciate every opportunity for us to renew our bonds of friendship. Our similar values and interests are not only strong between our two governments but between our people," Katkus said. ■



**Health Exam.** Captain Tori Schmidt, physician assistant, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, treats a patient at the medical clinic as part of the Medical Humanitarian Civic Action Outreach Project during Khaan Quest 12 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled multinational exercise sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific and hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

# Traditional Mongolian Sporting Events Entertain

By Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

**FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia ...** The luminous clouds, deep blue sky and luscious green hills set the scene as service members and distinguished guests from around the Pacific region gathered to experience several traditional sporting events on Mongolian culture night for the Khaan Quest 12 exercise in August.

Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled multinational exercise sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific, hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces and held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Center in the vicinity of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Throughout the exercise, different nations were highlighted with a culture night aimed at strengthening multinational relationships and fostering camaraderie.

"This was one of the biggest events for the exercise," said Lieutenant Colonel B. Bat-Erdene, Khaan Quest 12 field training director, Mongolian Armed Forces. "We wanted to share our Mongolian culture with the other nations' participants."

The evening featured a vibrant display of wrestling, archery and horse racing. Service members from other nations were encouraged to participate in the sporting events, also called the "three games of men," which are generally held during local festivals and holidays.

Sergeant Joseph Robinson, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, decided to accept a wrestling match with a Mongolian Armed Forces soldier.

"This was my first time participating in this style of Mongolian wrestling, and it was very difficult," Robinson said. "These guys have been doing this for quite a long time, and they have effective techniques to take their opponent to the ground."

Robinson said he was impressed with the various customs and courtesies involved in Mongolian wrestling, especially the great sportsmanship from all the competitors.

Throughout the evening the atmosphere was filled with the stomping of horse hooves, the melodies of local children and the roar of the crowd cheering for the competitors.



**Off to the Races.** Two Mongolian children race their horses during a cultural event for Khaan Quest 12 at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center, in the vicinity of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

"All the soldiers come here to train for peacekeeping and to share their military experiences," Bat-Erdene said. "But we'd also like them to make friends so they realize the world isn't that big of a place; it's a small world and they could see each other anywhere." ■



**Mongolian Wrestling.** Sergeant Joseph Robinson, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, competes in a traditional wrestling match with a Mongolian Armed Forces soldier on Mongolian culture night during the Khaan Quest 12 exercise in August. Khaan Quest is a multinational training exercise focused on peace-keeping operations, cosponsored by U.S. Army Pacific Command and the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



**Archery.** Staff Sergeant Angela Horn, logistics noncommissioned officer, 207th Combat Support Company, Alaska Army National Guard, gets instruction from her Mongolian counterparts on how to properly shoot a bow and arrow during a cultural event for Khaan Quest 12 at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center, in the vicinity of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

# 103rd Civil Support Team Showcases Capabilities

Photos by Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs



**Supporting Civil Authorities.** Staff Sergeant Trampas Vojtasek, 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska National Guard, and Sergeant Lucas Revaul, 101st Civil Support Team, Idaho National Guard, perform a sweep for simulated suspicious substances during a haz-mat demonstration in September at the Alaska Railroad Depot. "We're the state of Alaska's best resource for chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear events," said Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Wilson, commander of the 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska National Guard. "So when we're called in to support civil authorities, we take it very seriously."

**Protection.** Staff Sergeant Trampas Vojtasek, 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska National Guard, wears protective gear during a demonstration simulating a hazardous materials event. The 103rd Civil Support Team's mission is to assess hazards, advise civil authorities, and facilitate military support during emergencies and incidents of suspected weapons of mass destruction.

## Searching for Suspicious Substances.

Staff Sergeant Trampas Vojtasek, 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska National Guard, and Sergeant Lucas Revaul, 101st Civil Support Team, Idaho National Guard, climb an Alaska Railroad railcar during a hazardous materials demonstration in September at the Alaska Railroad Depot. "The true value of the statewide haz-mat working group is that it gets everyone together and gives that level of comfort to be working with each other because we all can learn from everyone else, so this is an ideal exercise to have every year," said First Lieutenant Joseph Radke, 103rd Civil Support Team, entry team leader.



**Partnerships.** Suited up in protective gear, National Guard civil support team members participate in a hazardous materials demonstration in September in Anchorage. The demonstration was put on by the 103rd Civil Support Team, Anchorage Fire Department, 95th Chemical Company and Alaska Railroad to show attendees of the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals 2012 National Conference how responders deal with haz-mat situations in Alaska.



**Suit Up.** Captain Bernard Smith, left, and Staff Sergeant Holt Duffin, both members of the 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska National Guard, suit up a civil support team member in preparation for a hazardous materials demonstration for attendees of the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals 2012 National Conference.



**Collaborative Work Environment.** Staff Sergeant Trampas Vojtasek, 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska National Guard, and Sergeant Lucas Revaul, 101st Civil Support Team, Idaho National Guard, highlight the capabilities of a National Guard civil support team during a hazardous materials demonstration in September in Anchorage.





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## Alaska Committee Has New State Chairman



Craig Campbell

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** A familiar face around the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs has stepped up to lead the Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Craig Campbell, former commissioner of the DMVA and adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, was appointed state chairman of the Alaska Committee for ESGR by James Rebholz, national chairman of the National Committee for ESGR. Campbell took the oath of office in September and succeeds outgoing chairman Rich Owens, who completed three years of distinguished service at the helm of Alaska's ESGR.

"It is an honor to have this opportunity to serve as ESGR state chairman for the Alaska Committee. I am thrilled to be able to work with the committee volunteers who support our reservists as they serve our nation," Campbell said. "Employer support of

National Guard and Reserve members is essential toward maintaining a strong national defense.

"Alaskan employers have historically been exceptional supporters of reservists during periods of mobilizations," Campbell added. "This relationship between civilian employers and reservists is a cornerstone of society. It is rooted in history, from the battle at Bunker Hill to the mountains of Afghanistan.

"I look forward to working with Alaska companies to ensure our citizen-warriors continue to have the opportunity to serve in this dual role, as valuable civilian employees to our state and communities and in service to our nation when called."

Campbell is currently the president and chief executive officer of the Alaska Aerospace Corporation. Prior to this position, he was Alaska's lieutenant governor. Campbell served 35 years in the military, retiring as a lieutenant general (Alaska) from the Alaska Air National Guard in 2009.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. ESGR recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of the law and resolves conflicts through mediation.



### Behind the Scenes of the Guard.

Supportive civilian employers learn more about the Alaska National Guard during an orientation flight around the Anchorage area on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in August. From left, Rick Calcote, State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Sandra Heffern, EHD Enterprises; Jack Gwaltney, Gwaltney and Associates; Andrea Rice, Millennium Hotel; Howard Marsh, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility; Dave Lamothe, ESGR; Chief Warrant Officer Four Pam French, Alaska Army National Guard; Lena Schultze, Klondike Advertising; Terry Holm, JC Penney; Warrant Officer Molly Reque, Alaska Army National Guard; Christine West, Business MD; Noel Lowe, Lowe Property Management; Stephanie Hendricks, Klondike Advertising; and Sergeant First Class Thomas Stokesberry, Alaska Army National Guard. Photo: Courtesy of ESGR

# Alaska Air National Guard Flight Crew Wins “Moose Shoot”

By Technical Sergeant Jennifer Theulen, 176th Wing Public Affairs

## JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

A C-130 aircrew from the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron won the annual Moose Shoot airlift competition at the Malamute Drop Zone in August.

The Moose Shoot is a friendly airdrop and landing competition among crews from the Alaska Air National Guard and active-duty Air Force. C-130 crews from the 144th and the 537th Airlift Squadrons took part, as did C-17 crews from the 249th and 517th Airlift Squadrons.

The winning aircrew from the 144th Airlift Squadron consisted of aircraft commander Lieutenant Colonel Rich Adams, co-pilot Major Patrick McBride, navigator Lieutenant Colonel Josh Armstrong, flight engineer Technical Sergeant James Castagna, and loadmasters Senior Airman Levi Oyster and Senior Airman Connor Murray.

Ten crews participated in the event, which include simulated assault landings, airdrop and timed takeoffs. The Moose Shoot provides competitors with the opportunity to sharpen their wartime skills in a manner that allows for esprit de corps plus an element of fun.

Captain Allison Snow, a C-17 pilot with the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron, said this is the first year they've included the C-17s and brought in active duty crews as a



**Cargo Drop.** A C-130 drops a training container delivery system at the Malamute Drop Zone in August. The aircraft was participating in the “Moose Shoot,” an airdrop and landing competition between the 176th Wing's airlift squadrons as well as their active-duty Air Force associate units, the 517th and 537th Airlift Squadrons.

Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs

way to bring the components together in a total force enterprise. Adding the active duty components to the competition allows crews to work together as one force sharing a common goal and mission.

“This victory was a total team effort. The Moose Shoot wouldn't be successful without the efforts of the entire wing,” Adams said. “I'd also like to applaud the Moose Shoot's mission commander, Major Kirby Chacon. He did a great job putting all of this together.” ■



**Runway Accuracy.** Captain Allison Snow, a C-17 pilot with the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron, measures the accuracy of a C-17 landing on the flight line in August during the “Moose Shoot” competition. Snow was a lead judge for aircraft landings in the airdrop and landing competition featuring crews from both the Alaska Air National Guard and active duty Air Force. Photo: Technical Sergeant Jennifer Theulen, 176th Wing Public Affairs

# Popular Exercise Regimen Excites Guardsmen

Story and photos by Specialist Balinda O'Neal,  
DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Riding the wave of its popularity, volunteers from the Alaska National Guard are reaching out to Guardsmen, families and friends to get them hooked on a new model of physical fitness dubbed CrossFit.

The global fitness revolution that CrossFit promotes builds strength and conditioning through constantly varied, high-intensity functional movements. It's this model of fitness that prompted one Alaska Guardsman to bring the program to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"Last year, I injured my shoulder while training for the Iron Dog," said Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Lawendowski, Alaska Army National Guard 907 CrossFit instructor. "After my initial recovery, I discovered CrossFit, fell in love with it and thought the Guard needs to be a part of this."

The 907 CrossFit program on JBER is located at Hangar 5 and is offered to all Guardsmen, their families and friends at no cost. Sergeant First Class Jarrent Carson, Recruiting and Retention, Alaska Army National Guard, said the program is aimed at getting Soldiers into shape and even improving the fitness levels of Soldiers who are already in great shape.

"CrossFit is a workout designed to maximize your cardio and muscular endurance," Carson said. "The program is designed for any committed individual from marathon runners to powerlifters."

Physical strength and conditioning is mission essential for Soldiers and Airmen, and Alaska National Guardsmen are already seeing the benefits of the program.

"My endurance has bumped up, speed, everything," said Private First Class Dylan Hotrum, Recruiting and Retention, Alaska Army National Guard. "I've seen major improvements on my physical fitness tests, and I'm looking good."

CrossFit accommodates individuals' fitness levels by offering three classes with different intensities.

"The novice class really concentrates on form," Carson said. "You start out

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*"CrossFit is a workout designed to maximize your cardio and muscular endurance. The program is designed for any committed individual from marathon runners to powerlifters."*

– Sergeant First Class Jarrent Carson

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**Keeping Fitness a Priority.** CrossFit participants prepare to lift during the advanced CrossFit class held at Hangar 5 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August. Classes are open to members of the Alaska National Guard, their families and friends at no cost.

with a very light rep and work up to the prescribed weight. It slowly allows you to walk into the program without hurting yourself."

Workouts are measured by completion time. This enables individuals to track their progress and compete with one another.

"You find yourself racing against other people," Hotrum said. "It's competitive, and I push myself through this insane workout."

Cohesion is built by Guardsmen spotting and pushing each other through exercises that are by design broad, general and inclusive.

"You won't get the same feeling with other workouts," Hotrum said. "Even though you're in pain now, it's worth it when you see results, and it feels like a huge accomplishment when you're done." ■



**Stronger than Yesterday.** Staff Sergeant John Cupp, Recruiting and Retention, Alaska Army National Guard, pushes through the pain as he completes a lift during the advanced CrossFit class held at Hangar 5 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August. The workout of the day included "hang power clean" to "press," butterfly sit-ups and rowing.



# Veterans



## Alaska Territorial Guard Recognized with Bethel Memorial

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

**BETHEL, Alaska** ... Alaska Territorial Guard members were remembered and recognized during an ATG Memorial Park dedication ceremony and Soldier potluck in Bethel this July.

A bronze statue of an ATG member now stands, ever watchful, on a pedestal outside the Veterans Memorial Cemetery. It faces 270 degrees in the direction from which the initial threat was seen in the 1940s when Japan attacked the United States.

"The men and women of the Alaska Territorial Guard banded together at high risk to themselves to defend their families and their land and did so without a second thought," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "And afterward, they were discarded. More than 65 years later, we are still trying to rectify that wrong. Men and women from 11 years old to 80 years old took that risk and served, and now, we get to memorialize that great effort."

Joseph A. Klejka, mayor of Bethel, praised the ATG members for their dedication and service to the country, stressing the importance of remembering that service.

"Seven years the ATG kept a vigilant watch over the coast of Alaska. When that threat ended, the Soldiers were simply dismissed without recognition of any kind," Klejka said. "Now, 65 years later, we are able to recognize the service these brave men and women provided to our country. Of 6,000 ATG members, more than 1,500 volunteered from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region – that is a proud legacy that should never be forgotten again."

Eighty-nine-year-old Gregory Slats Sr., the oldest living ATG member, said he was very thankful to have his and his comrades' service recognized. The Chevak, Alaska, resident also noted that it's important to remember all those who died.

"The men who volunteered were too young or too old to be drafted so this is how they served their country," said Jerry Walton, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, deputy director of facilities. "They were tasked with a watch of the coast and were the eyes and ears of the nation."

Because of their strong ties to the ATG and community, Katkus also took a



**Grateful For Your Service.** Alaska Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell presents an Alaska Territorial Guard ball cap to Gregory Slats Sr., 89, the oldest living ATG member, during the ATG Memorial Park dedication in Bethel in July. Slats, of Chevak, Alaska, served in the ATG and then in the Alaska Army National Guard for more than 20 years.

moment to remember the Alaska Army National Guard members from B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, who are currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"It's very important that we make every effort to not only recognize the ATG, but the Alaskans currently serving in Afghanistan," Katkus said. "Many of those Soldiers come from this region and are serving their country proudly as their ancestors did, and that sense of pride is carried through our Soldiers today."

To fund the memorial, the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs worked tirelessly to negotiate grants so major communities throughout Alaska could fund ATG memorials. ■

**On Guard.** Lieutenant Colonel Emma Thyen, left, State Command Sergeant Major Pamela Harrington, center, and Major Wayne Don, all members of the Alaska Army National Guard, admire the bronze Alaska Territorial Guard statue that memorializes the service of the ATG. The statue sits ever watchful, outside the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bethel, facing 270 degrees in the direction from which the initial threat was seen in the 1940s when Japan attacked the United States.



# SUPPORTING VETERANS

By Verdie Bowen, Veterans Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** ... I believe the support given to our military and veterans is at an all time high. As we all know, past history has not always been the case for our military and veterans. Today, we are still fighting hard in Afghanistan with our all-volunteer force, and all across America we are standing behind those who served and are still serving.

Recently, I was in the Detroit Metro Airport where a group of Soldiers were waiting for a flight. I asked their destination, and no sooner had Afghanistan left the lips of the young captain, when the whole gate stood and echoed a thunderous applause of support. In Alaska, you do not have to be in the airport to witness this support.

Supporting veterans is something that comes natural to Alaskans. Governor Sean Parnell reflected this trait when he invited our military to call Alaska home beyond their time in service.

"I've seen noble characteristics displayed again and again by Alaska's military. I would like you to call Alaska home even after your military service is complete," Parnell said. "You are just the kind of men and women we want to permanently reside in Alaska. Your character, courage, integrity, training, self-discipline and patriotism all lead me to ask you to make Alaska your permanent residence once you leave active duty."

In every town and village I visit, I have found great people volunteering and supporting veterans. Without these wonderful people, we would be hard pressed to



**Honoring Those Who Help.** Bert Hall, third from left, displays the Alaska Distinguished Service Medal he received in August for his efforts in the development of the State of Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home in Palmer and for his work as the past chairman of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. His wife, Helen, received a coin representing her years of supporting veterans in Alaska. They are joined by Verdie Bowen, left, State of Alaska Veterans Affairs administrator, and Joe Fields, chairman of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. Photo: Mercedes Angerman, Veterans Affairs

accomplish all the great projects that directly support our veterans. The best example of volunteers helping veterans is Stand Down. Each year, I marvel at the fact that the events are arranged, planned and performed by volunteers all across our state. This year, we added two more Stand Down locations: Barrow and Juneau.

Our largest veteran population group in Alaska served and is serving in our current conflicts with a close second from

the Vietnam War. What an honor it is to have so many who have served and served selflessly.

Alaska veterans volunteer under the umbrella of war. They stand in the gap when others will not. They stay in the fight when most would give up, and after they suffer injuries that would put most people out of action, they ask to return to the front. This is the veteran who lives in our Alaska. ■



**Sustained Service.** Verdine Bowen, left, State of Alaska Veterans Affairs administrator, presents Fred Becker, aka "Bull Dog," a Silver Veterans Honor Coin in July for his years of sustained service to the veterans of Alaska. He has trained numerous veterans to perform the fallen warrior ceremony that has been presented all across Alaska and brings great honor to our fallen.


Photo: Mercedes Angerman, Veterans Affairs



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# Missile Defense

Photos by Staff Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



**Military Police.** Sergeant Jose Pineda, military police officer, A Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, fits the Army combat helmet on a visiting youth from the Fort Greely Child Development Center in August. Pineda and the other Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers of A Company are responsible for securing and defending the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely.



**Defending the Nation.** Staff Sergeant Craig Davis, weapons operator, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, guides a visiting student from the Fort Greely Child Development Center through a simulated defense of the nation from an intercontinental ballistic missile attack in August. The Missile Defense Agency and Soldiers from the battalion recently hosted children of the community for a visit to the Missile Defense Complex.



**Missile Interceptor.** Lieutenant Colonel Tim Shaffer, Missile Defense chief, U.S. Northern Command, peers out of a silo interface vault past a 55-foot ground-based interceptor on Fort Greely during a recent visit to the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of the Alaska Army National Guard.

**Defense System.** Staff Sergeant Nick Power, weapons operator, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, explains his role on Delta Crew to a group of visitors in August. The visitors were shown a missile defense exercise depicting an engagement of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system.



# Education

## Graduation Day!

By Alaska Military Youth Academy staff

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** The Alaska Military Youth Academy graduated 161 cadets from its ChalleNGe program in August, making Class 2012-2 the second largest class in the state's program history.

The graduation ceremony was held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and included guest speakers U.S. Senator Mark Begich; Ernie Gonzales, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs; and Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell.

During their 22-week residential phase in the AMYA ChalleNGe program, the corps of cadets focused on academics, military style discipline, physical fitness, vocational training and community service.

The graduating cadets are among the 3,819 graduates of the Alaska Military Youth Academy since 1994.



**Honor Graduate.** U.S. Senator Mark Begich shakes hands with Honor Graduate Skylaar Ford, of Anchorage, during the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in August. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

Upon graduation, cadets take part in a yearlong post-residential phase in which graduates return to their communities to enter the workplace, continue their education in high school or higher education, or enter the military. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to help intervene in and reclaim the lives of youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. ■



**Job Well Done.** Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell and Brigadier General Mike Bridges, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, congratulate Savannah Burgess, of Anchorage, during the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony in August.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



**Success.** Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets celebrate their successful completion of the 22-week residential phase of the ChalleNGe program during their graduation ceremony at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in August. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



# Family Programs

## Stress, Resilience and Suicide Prevention

By Family Programs Staff

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** The toughest enemy our Armed Forces face today is not combat, but suicide.

The Army experienced a record 38 suicides in July, the highest monthly total since the service began releasing monthly figures in 2009. According to an Army report, 26 active-duty Soldiers and 12 Army National Guard or Army Reserve members were suspected of or confirmed to have died by suicide.

"Suicide is the toughest enemy I have faced in my 37 years in the Army," said General Lloyd J. Austin III, Army vice chief of staff. "That said, I do believe suicide is preventable."

The top three causes of suicide are failed relationships, finances and substance abuse.

Despite the grim facts, leaders are not giving up on a solution. They strongly believe suicide is preventable if the right programs are developed to help individuals build resilience.

"The Alaska National Guard has had no suicides in 2012," said Staff Sergeant Charles Boldt, Alaska Army National Guard Resiliency, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Program manager.

"In order to keep it this way, we must continue to take proactive measures to take care of our greatest assets – our service and family members and our civilian support staff."

Stress can debilitate even the strongest leaders, service members or families. Stress is manifested in many forms and can result in subtle or notable changes in behavior, including job performance, family problems, uncharacteristic alcohol and drug abuse, misconduct, mental health problems and ultimately, suicidal behavior. As a result, the strain from stress can build up and impact our Alaska National Guard force protection, unit mission readiness, and the service and family members' long-term health and well-being.

As a proactive measure, the Army has developed the Resiliency Program as part of the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness initiative. The program is a proactive approach to preventing suicide.

Brigadier General Rhonda Cornum, director of the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program said, "Most stress issues do not need to become behavioral health problems, and early intervention is the key to success."

The Alaska National Guard has launched the Resiliency Program for both the Air and Army National Guard, offering resiliency training to service members, families and civilian support staff.

Resiliency teaches practical coping skills that anyone can learn to use. The program encompasses seven skills that strengthen core competencies in order to help a person thrive through any adverse event or everyday stressful situations.

"The program's main message is that it is not what happens to us that determines our outcome, but rather how we deal with any given situation," said Staff Sergeant Diane Singh, Alaska Army National Guard Resiliency coordinator. "By strengthening coping skills, everyone can develop tools that can help them bounce back from everyday stress and overcome adversity."

The two-week Master Resiliency Training and four-day Resiliency Training Assistant courses certify service members to teach resiliency at the unit level. For questions about the Resiliency Program, contact Singh at (907) 428-7594. ■

## APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING

Twelve people from various work backgrounds successfully completed the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training at Fort Greely in September. ASIST, the most widely used suicide-intervention training material in the world, is a two-day, skills-building workshop that prepares attendees with the skills needed to provide suicide intervention and first-aid. The ASIST workshop provides information that can help participants lift and remove some of the stigma surrounding suicide that might otherwise cause them to hesitate to intervene when they are aware of individuals who might be contemplating suicide. Education is key. It is important to educate individuals about this issue and to equip them with the skills necessary to feel confident, ready, willing and able to help someone avoid suicide. For more information on ASIST workshops, contact Chaplain Major Vince Cepeda at (907) 873-9827. ■



**Building Suicide Intervention Skills.** From left, back row: Chaplain Major Vince Cepeda, ASIST instructor; Sarah Anderegg, Military Family Life consultant; Specialist Kelanitani Maka, 49th Missile Defense Battalion; William Canada, Army Substance Abuse Program specialist; Josie Barry, marriage and family counselor; Sergeant Deavene Hodge, 49th Missile Defense Battalion; Sergeant Justin Taylor, 49th Missile Defense Battalion; Sergeant First Class Jason Tatrol, Cold Region Test Center; and Sergeant Juliana Jameson, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. From left, front row: First Sergeant Paul McDavid, 49th Missile Defense Battalion; Sergeant Flanthy Briones, 49th Missile Defense Battalion; Sergeant Sarah Almeida, 49th Missile Defense Battalion; Charles Boldt, ASIST instructor; and Sergeant Daniel Garner, 49th Missile Defense Battalion.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Keith Brooks, Fort Greely Chaplains Office



# Who We Are...

*What is your favorite holiday movie?*

**First Lieutenant  
Dustin Leohndorf**  
1-207th Aviation



**National Lampoon's  
Christmas Vacation**

"It's funny,  
and Chevy Chase is in it."

**Laritza Gonzales**  
Administrative Services



**The Santa Clause**

"My kids love it!"

**Master Sergeant  
Travis Doyle**

Joint Force Headquarters



**Scrooged**

(with Bill Murray)

"I'm more into comedies."

**Specialist  
Tosca Yeager**

297th Battlefield  
Surveillance Brigade

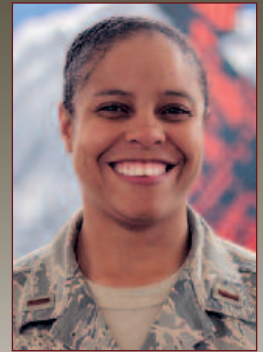


**Nightmare  
Before Christmas**

"Of course!"

**Second Lieutenant  
Yutashea Zirkle**

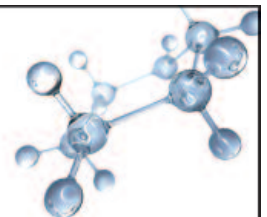
176th Logistics  
Readiness Squadron



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# Alaska National Guard First Female General Officer Retires

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** The Alaska National Guard's first female general officer retired here in July after serving her state and country for more than 30 years.

Brigadier General Deborah C. McManus, who enlisted in the Washington, D.C., Air National Guard in 1981 as a senior airman, completed her career as the Alaska National Guard's director of Joint Staff in front of family and friends at the Arctic Warrior Event Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"I will miss serving with all of the great men and women in uniform," said McManus. "There is so much pride and camaraderie in dedicating one's life to military service, and it has been an honor and privilege to serve."

McManus became the first female general in the Alaska National Guard in June 2007. She held several positions, including commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, during her tenure and had a career filled with memorable experiences.

"The highlight of my career was volunteering to serve in Iraq for four months in



**Thank You for Your Service.** Members of the Alaska Army National Guard Honor Guard case the general officer flag of Brigadier General Deborah C. McManus during her official retirement ceremony in July. McManus became the first female general officer in the Alaska National Guard in 2007. She held several positions, including commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, during her tenure, and she retired as director of the Joint Staff for the Alaska National Guard.

Photo: Specialist Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

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2005 as the director for operations, strategic communications, Multinational Force – Iraq," McManus said.

"It was an extremely complex, fluid environment working with all services, coalition partners and the Iraqi government in shaping strategic communications. I had an opportunity to assist the prime minister's spokesman in developing their public affairs capability, absolutely critical to a developing democracy."

McManus, who served in Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, felt it was her duty to serve her country, and she used those experiences to make her a better leader in the National Guard.

"I volunteered for every deployment," McManus said. "First, I had to set the example for our junior members. Secondly, the experience enabled me to prepare our Airmen, their families and the employers through each phase of deployment. And, finally, it was so rewarding to work with a team of experts and be recognized among the best units."

Whether deployed as a maintenance officer or visiting units as commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, throughout

her career McManus enjoyed mentoring young Airmen whenever she could and was first to tout the benefits of serving in the National Guard.

"I'm so thrilled to mentor junior members about the opportunities unique to the National Guard. It is life changing and grants you access to unlimited fulfillment," McManus said. "It gives you choices, builds your character, and you feel part of something transcending as a member of the National Guard."

Transcending also describes McManus's career as the first female to pin on general in the Alaska National Guard, but surprisingly, it wasn't the rank she coveted most.

"The rank I was most proud to achieve was staff sergeant," McManus said.

"Someone once asked me if I always wanted to be a general, and I replied no, I just wanted to serve. I was honored to be the first female general in Alaska and was always aware of the tremendous responsibility that came with it, but now I'm passing the torch to the next generation of Alaska Air National Guardsmen, who will accomplish our mission and realize our vision. They will always be in my heart." ■



# Awards • Decorations • Promotions

## Meritorious Service Medal



Lt Col Douglas W. Bradbury .....168th ARS  
 CMSgt Patrick J. Skinner .....168th MXG  
 Maj Matthew Friese .....176th WG  
 MSgt Pamela Brunner .....176th MOF  
 TSgt William Hobbs .....176th AMXS  
 MSgt Michael Carruthers ..... JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 LTC Matthew Schell ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MAJ Clinton M. Campion ..... 38th TC  
 MAJ Scott C. Ketcham ..... MED DET  
 MAJ Kenneth A. Weiss .....49th GMD  
 CPT David A. Moss .....49th GMD  
 CSM Pamela B. Harrington ..... 38th TC  
 MSG George D. Mebane ..... 297th MP  
 MSG Andrew W. Blore ..... 207th MFTR  
 MSG Jeremy C. Bryant ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MSG Mark R. Dudek .....761st MP  
 SFC James A. Corbin III ..... R&R  
 SFC Eric Schlemme .....1-297th R&S  
 SFC James Whitmore ..... 38th TC

## Army Commendation Medal



SSG Billy J. Musgrove .....49th GMD

## Air Force Commendation Medal



SRA Raymond Mixsooke .....176th CES

## Air Force Achievement Medal



SSgt Michael Lamphere .....176th ACS  
 SMSgt James Neill .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Tod Hemmert .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Cassandra Aglietti .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Timothy Allwood .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Patricia Ashcraft .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Jeffrey Austin .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Wayland Baker .....176th ACS  
 LtCol John Breuker .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Evan Budd .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Nicholas Carmona .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Matthew Carse .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Arthur Clark .....176th ACS  
 Maj Kevin Clifford .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Denise Cooney .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Joseph Cooper .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Mark Cooper .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Christopher Cordiner .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Derrick Coston .....176th ACS  
 SRA Christopher Cox .....176th ACS

SSgt Danielle Crismon .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Brian Curtis .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Carrie Curtis .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Andre Debrito .....176th ACS  
 CMSgt Joseph Dibenedetto .....176th ACS  
 Capt Nicholas Dillon .....176th ACS  
 SMSgt Joseph Dziuban .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Wayne Earnheart .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Gabriel Ekiss .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Melissa Erhard .....176th ACS  
 TSgt David Fuller .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Brian Garverick .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Ian Geroux .....176th ACS  
 TSgt David Glass .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Erica Glass .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Keith Greenhalgh .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Tracy Hartless .....176th ACS  
 SRA Khalilah Hayward .....176th ACS  
 Maj Carrie Howard .....176th ACS  
 SMSgt William Humenik .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Erik Kershner .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Bradley Knudson .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Kenneth Kotelman .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Peter Linn .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Eric Lovley .....176th ACS  
 1Lt Pamela Masor .....176th ACS  
 SRA Micah McDonald .....176th ACS  
 TSgt James Mcilmail .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Bradley Newton .....176th ACS  
 LtCol John Oberst .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Shantavia Odom .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Sanjuan Ordonez .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Douglass Patchin .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Jessica Pena .....176th ACS  
 2Lt Matthew Perdew .....176th ACS  
 Capt Perham Christopher .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Aaron Pflock .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Heather Pineiro .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Heman Quinones Figueroa .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Richard Rauckhorst .....176th ACS  
 SSgt James Richardson .....176th ACS  
 Maj Christopher Rishko .....176th ACS

SSgt Jimmy Rojas .....176th ACS  
 Capt Michael Shea .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Eric Shinsato .....176th ACS  
 SSgt David Stanberry .....176th ACS  
 Capt Clarence Stevens .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Kevin Sumner .....176th ACS  
 SSgt David Taylor .....176th ACS  
 LtCol Jon Thornton .....176th ACS  
 MSgt Lundy Twiford .....176th ACS  
 Maj James Vanhooissen .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Michael Wachel .....176th ACS  
 SSgt Robert Williams .....176th ACS

## Alaska Legion of Merit



LTC William J. Smith ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MSG Kathy L. Thompson ... JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



COL Michael A. Thompson ... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 LTC Richard J. Koch ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MAJ Scott C. Ketcham ... AKARNG-MED DET  
 MAJ Kenneth A. Weiss .....49th GMD  
 MSG Mark R. Dudek .....761st MP  
 MSG George D. Mebane ..... 297th MP  
 MSG Andrew W. Blore ..... 207TH MFTR  
 MSG Jeremy C. Bryant ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MSG William J. Giese ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SFC Samuel P. Ethridge ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SFC John Sztajer ..... R&R  
 Bob Goodman ..... Veterans Affairs

## Alaska Commendation Medal



Capt Sebastian Gagnon .....176th ACS  
 COL Hunt W. Kerrigan ..... 38th TC  
 MAJ Geoffrey Sutton ..... 297th SPT  
 MSG Fenumiai Ilalio Jr. .... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SGT David J. Sholl .....1-207th AVN

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# AWARDS • DECORATIONS • PROMOTIONS (continued)

## Alaska Homeland Security Medal



176th MDG

## Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation



176th MDG

## Alaska State Partnership Medal



Lt Gen (AK) (ret) Craig Campbell . . . JFHQ-AK (Air)  
Capt Andrew Adamich . . . . . 176th MDG  
SFC Jeffery Alberts . . . . . 38th TC  
COL Ruben Alvero . . . . . Army Hospital  
SSG Edward Antonio . . . . . 297th MP  
SGT Matthew Armstrong . . . . . 297th MP  
LTC James Arneson . . . . . MED DET  
CPT Chad Ausel . . . . . 297th MP  
CPT Marianno Barajas . . . . . 49th GMD  
MAJ James Barker . . . . . 38th TC  
MAJ Robert Barr . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Richard Beck . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SSG Xavier Bird . . . . . 207th MFTR  
1SG Stephen Blair . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
SGT Matthew Blanchet . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
SSG Keefe Blankenship . . . . . 297th MP  
MSG Andrew Blore . . . . . 207th MFTR  
SGT Nicholas Boggs . . . . . 297th MP  
SSG Charles Boldt . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Lt Col John Boston . . . . . 176th MDG  
LTC John Brady . . . . . MED DET  
CSM Clinton Brown . . . . . 297th BFSB  
LTC Simon Brown . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
1SG Sherry Butters . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SSG Joshua Clark . . . . . 207th AVN  
CSM Dennis Covell . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
1SG William Crowley . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
LTC Paul Darling . . . . . RTI  
SSG Laurence Dirkes . . . . . 297th BFSB  
SGT Matthew Duddles . . . . . 297th BFSB  
SGT Michael Dunayski . . . . . 297th BFSB  
SFC Michael Eastham . . . . . RTI  
2LT Kendalin Farthing . . . . . 38th TC  
SSG Floyd Flood . . . . . 38th TC  
LTC James Fuller . . . . . 38th TC  
SSG Tara Thompson . . . . . MED DET  
SSG Krystal Ginter . . . . . WAARNG  
CSM Daniel Goodwin . . . . . 38th TC  
SSG Brandee Gresham . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SGM Michael Grunst . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
CSM Pamela Harrington . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
CPT Karie Hawk . . . . . 761st MP  
SFC William Hayes . . . . . 761st MP

SFC Duncan Heaney . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
SSG Bonnie Henning . . . . . 207th AVN  
SGT Rebekah Hirschel . . . . . 49th GMD  
MAJ Kyle Holt . . . . . 761st MP  
SGT Johnathan Hotchkiss . . . . . R&R  
SGT Charles Howard . . . . . MED DET  
CPT James Jack . . . . . WAARNG  
CPT James Johnson . . . . . 761st MP  
MSG Andrew Kennedy . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
CPT Jennifer King . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Travis Kulp . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
LT Justin Lawlor . . . . . U.S. Navy  
MAJ Mark Lepp . . . . . WAARNG  
MAJ Michael Majchrowicz . . . . . WAARNG  
SSG Michael Manson . . . . . 761st MP  
SFC Jason Martin . . . . . 49th GMD  
1SG Patrick McDonald . . . . . WAARNG  
SrA Daniel Miceli . . . . . 176th MDG  
MAJ Anthony Mortrud . . . . . 49th GMD  
SSG Daniel Nelson . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
1LT Jeremy Nielson . . . . . 207th BFSB  
SSG Paul Norwood . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
SFC Homer Nunoorkuk . . . . . 761st MP  
SGT Pricilla Ortiz . . . . . 207th AV  
LTC Chad Parker . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SGT Tauter Pearce . . . . . 761st MP  
SPC Terry Proud . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
SSG Derek Rabago . . . . . 297th MP

SGT Rosa Ralls . . . . . 297th BFSB  
SPC Jory Randall . . . . . WAARNG  
SPC Carlos Rivera . . . . . 297th MP  
MAJ Julie Robinson . . . . . 38th TC  
SFC Matthew Roeber . . . . . 761st MP  
SPC Jordan Rymmer . . . . . 297th MP  
CPT Corbin Sawyer . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SGT Jonathan Sholl . . . . . 1-297th CAV  
CPT Ryan Skaw . . . . . 49th GMD  
1LT John Smyre . . . . . MED DET  
1LT Ronald Snyder . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
SSG Tyler Starkweather-Jones . . . . . 297th MP  
SGT Erica Stinsky . . . . . 297th BFSB  
CPL Daniel Thornton . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
CPT Kirk Thorsteinson . . . . . 297th BFSB  
1LT James Tollefson . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
MSG Jerauld Troupe . . . . . 761st MP  
Lt Col Mark Tuccillo . . . . . 212th RQS  
SGT Erik Nebelsickvogt . . . . . 297th BFSB  
SSG Kenton Ward . . . . . 297th MP  
SFC Scott Wesierski . . . . . RTI  
SSG Khris White . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
SFC James Whitmore . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
LTC Stephen Wilson . . . . . 103rd CST  
1LT Noah Wisecarver . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
CPT William Yeo . . . . . 103rd CST  
LTC Rebecca Young . . . . . MED DET  
SSG James Zuelow . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN

## RETIREMENTS

MSgt Kenneth E. Walton . . . . . 168th LRS	SGT Owen Nowpakahok . . . . . 297th BFSB
Lt Col Douglas W. Bradbury . . . . . 168th ARS	SSG Carol Morgan . . . . . 297th SIG
SMSgt Pamela G. Cox . . . . . 168th OSF	MSG George Mebane . . . . . 297th SIG
MSgt Tracy J. Smith . . . . . 168th LRS	SFC Paul Donaldson . . . . . 49th GMD
SSG Mark Thomas . . . . . 1-207th AVN	MSG Andrew Blore . . . . . 207th MFTR
SSG Tom Charlie . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN	SFC Samuel Ethridge . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
SSG Rufus King . . . . . 1-297th R&S	MSG Fenumiai Ilallo . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
MAJ Scott Ketcham . . . . . MED DET	LTC Wesley Smith . . . . . 1-297th CAV
SSG Shane Seymoure . . . . . 1-207th AVN	Lt Col Thomas Schonberger . . . . . 176th ACS
MSG Jerauld Troupe . . . . . 761st MP	SMSgt William Barnett . . . . . 176th AMXS
SGM Patrick Meegan . . . . . 297th BFSB	SMSgt Bradley Johnson . . . . . 176th ACS
MSG Mark Dudek . . . . . 761st MP	MSgt Dennis Fox . . . . . 176th ACS
SGT Thomas Kennedy . . . . . 297th MP	MSgt Julie Paget . . . . . 176th ACS
1SG Eric Schlemme . . . . . 1-297th CAV	MSgt Timothy Weisenburger . . . . . 176th MXG
MSG Robert Seeger . . . . . 207th BSC	TSgt Carl Clay . . . . . 176th OSS
MSG Jay Klaassen . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)	SSgt Lee Warnick . . . . . 176th MDG

## PROMOTIONS

### Lieutenant Colonel

Alexander Tsang .....144th AS

### Major

Wa Meng Lor .....1-297th R&S

### Captain

Megan Flynt ..... 249th AS

Kevin Kelly ..... 249th AS

Benjamin Leonard ..... 210th RQS

### Second Lieutenant

Pona Tinora Faaaliga ..... 207th BSC

Anthony Donald Lapiz .....1-297th R&S

### Chief Warrant Officer Four

Tevin Wesley Julien .....1-297th CAV

### Chief Warrant Officer Two

Emanuel Jose Canosmith ..... 297th MP

Raven Christina Watkins ..... 761st MP

### Warrant Officer One

Nathasha Kedma Waringuez .... 297th BFSB

### Chief Master Sergeant

Curtis D. Brenton .....176th SFS

Joseph J. Dibenedetto .....176th ACS

### Master Sergeant (Army)

Chelsea Marie Keeling .....761st MP

### Senior Master Sergeant

John R. Cyr .....176th WG

Joseph F. Dziuban .....176th ACS

Alan S. Lankford ..... 212th RQS

### Sergeant First Class

Mark Christian Sullivan ..... 297th MP

Brandon Michael Dickinson .....1-207th AVN

Justin Dane Shaffer ..... 207th MFTR

Joseph Patrick Kelly .....1-297th CAV

### Master Sergeant (Air)

Helen E. Arvites .....176th SFS

Kenneth W. Hardwick .....176th LRS

Matthew R. Laramie .....176th AMXS

Vernon L. Lindemuth .....176th MXS

Julia J. Mills .....176th MXS

David M. Schroeder .....176th SFS

Melvin G. Tamondong .....176th MXS

### Staff Sergeant (Army)

Lindsay Marie Chvilicek ..... 297th BFSB

Jeremy Loyd Hanson ..... 207th BSC

Sychelle Grace De Gonsalves ..... 297th MP

Francisco Jose Marrerodiaz .....49th GMD

Robert Eugene Stilwell ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)

Patrick Maerion Duffy ..... 297th SIG

Jeffery Stephen Massman .....1-297th R&S

### Technical Sergeant

Justin K. Sawyer .....168th AMXS

Abraham A. Cook .....168th MXS

Ruperto R. Perez III .....168th MXG

Joseph H. Mowery .....168th MXS

David A. Tyssedal .....168th AMXS

Michael R. Norwood .....168th AMXS

Amy M. Gauger .....168th MXS

Gregory L. Lutrell .....168th MXS

Daniel A. Park .....176th FSF

### Sergeant

Randell Fred Andrew .....1-143rd IN ABN

Richard George Mitchell .....1-297th R&S

Philip Richard Corre .....1-143rd IN ABN

Lathaniel Hunter Ulofoshio ..1-143rd IN ABN

James Robert Jr. Morris ....1-143rd IN ABN

Lawrence Thomas Yeaton ...1-143rd IN ABN

Patrick Tyler Howell .....1-297th R&S

Jamil Mercadovelez .....49th GMD

Paul David Smith ..... 297th MP

Yethcika Elisabeth Percy ..... 207th BSC

Sasha Stanton Willis ..... 207th BSC

Axel Albert Joe .....1-143rd IN ABN

Cyrus Carlos Pete .....1-143rd IN ABN

Raymon Yago Egoak .....1-143rd IN ABN

Harris Doyle Graves II .....1-297th CAV

Scott Peter Sandoval ..... 297th SIG

Kristin Marie Steward ..... 297th SIG

Manuela Nicole Leigh ..... 297th SIG

Sharmae Lagasca Cariaga ..... 297th BFSB

Kristen Elizebeth Koch .....1-207th AVN

Israel Mercadorables .....49th GMD

Andrew Michael Burroughs ....1-297th R&S

Elliot Wade Severson .....1-297th R&S

George Rodriguez Sarmiento ..... 207th BSC

Victor Jose DiazLopez .....49th GMD

### Staff Sergeant (Air)

Ashley R. Hembree .....168th FSF

Mary L. Evans .....168th LRS

Melissa N. Langfield .....168th FSF

Matthew J. Heneveld .....168th MOF

Michael P. Hofmann .....176th AMXS

Ferdie B. Villaflores .....176th OSS

Robert E. Williams .....176th ACS

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Rosendo Perez  
Joshua M. Ellis  
Lane T. Laforest  
Heather A. Ornquist  
Robert J. Wasser  
Silas H.F. Simone  
Scott B. Milburn  
William H. Bullock  
William W. Granger  
Veronica M. Klyber  
Tenaya P. Stanton  
Scott L. Henscheid  
Michael A. Dibartolo  
Ferss A. Corbett  
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Nichole M. Alvarez  
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Bradley D. Bowyer  
Kristin M. Lookabaugh  
Sheldon M. May-Gunlogson  
Shawna M. Dziedziak  
Yukie K. Jones  
Christian M. Marcale  
Adam E. Wabrowetz  
Vance S. Streeter  
Gerren S. Blair  
Donald M. Harris  
Andrew J. Nichols  
Andrew W. Moss  
Eddie T. Perez

## 168th Air Refueling Wing

Lori Ray Dallman  
Timothy A. Morgan  
Ashlynn A. Hebert  
Brandon J. Erwin  
Dominque S. Gutierrez  
Kyle A. Parkerson  
Kassie R.A. Walters  
Brent A. Garrison  
Jeffery M. Andrieu  
Colin A. Harasti  
Matthew S. Markowski  
Aaron R. Binkley  
Jacob D. Vogel  
Jamie M. Keen

## 1-207th Aviation

Caleb Boyd  
Tadhg Nakada  
Rebekah Newsome  
Amy Dirkes  
Pocock Houston  
Kristen Koch  
Morgan Osborn  
Flint Warner  
Andre Alexander  
Jamie Paris

## 297th Military Police Company

Smith Cano  
Alisa Davison  
Matthew Williams

## Joint Forces Headquarters

Joseph Deimund

## 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Marcus Graham  
Shayla Reeves  
Wesley Mahle

## 1-297th Cavalry

Tevin Julien

## 297th Signal Company

Ruth Pfeil

## 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance

Gatwech Both  
Richard Polly  
Jeffery Massman

## Medical Detachment

Michael Cartwright

## 207th Brigade Support Company

Jolene Lemieux  
Sharmae Cariaga  
Barajas Eulloqui  
Tami Stephan  
George Sarmiento  
Caleb Hill

## 761st Military Police Battalion

Richard Moe  
Sawyer Slavinsky

## 1-297th Support Battalion

Wa Lor  
Andrew Burroughs  
Shayne Hill

# WARRIORS Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for most Alaska Army *and* Air National Guard units. All dates are subject to change.

	November	December	January 2013
<b>Alaska National Guard</b>			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	3-4	1-2	12-13
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	3-4	1-2	12-13
<b>Alaska Army National Guard</b>			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade			
38th Troop Command	2-4	1-2	11-13
<b>Alaska Air National Guard</b>			
168th Air Refueling Wing	3-4	1-2	12-13
176th Wing	3-4	1-2	12-13
<b>Alaska State Defense Force</b>			
Headquarters	10-11	8-9	19-20



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